



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### F.W.S. SUMMARIZES PREDATOR AND RODENT CONTROL WORK IN PAST FISCAL YEAR

To halt depredations on valuable livestock, poultry, and game, 99,452 predatory animals were destroyed by Federal-supervised predator control work during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1948, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, disclosed today.

The total recorded take consisted of 90,270 coyotes, 7,223 lynxes, bobcats, and ocelots, 744 bears, and 148 mountain lions. The actual take was higher, Mr. Day said, but difficulty in collecting scalps as evidence of the predator kill made it impossible to record the actual take.

The highest kill was recorded in Texas, where a total of 28,605 predatory animals were destroyed. In California, 11,329 predators were killed. Poisoning, shooting, and trapping were the chief methods of control.

Fish and Wildlife Service predator control was conducted in cooperation with local groups in areas where predator damage to agriculture is exceedingly high. Most of the work was financed by the cooperators. For each dollar of Federal money, they provided \$2.77. Cooperative funds consisted of appropriations from state finance agencies, individual counties, livestock associations, and private citizens.

Since 1915, Federal-supervised predator control has accounted for the destruction of 2,213,766 animals. The Fish and Wildlife Service recently estimated that without predator control, damage from predatory animals would cost U. S. citizens more than \$20 million a year.

The Service also reported today that 11,824,520 acres of rodent-infested land were treated with 2,783,775 lbs. of poison bait during the past fiscal year. Large numbers of prairie dogs, ground squirrels, pocket gophers, woodchucks, kangaroo rats, field mice, cotton rats, porcupines, moles, and common rats were destroyed, the Service said, curbing serious damage to agricultural crops, timber resources, irrigation structures, and stored food supplies.

In addition, 831,988 private premises were treated for rat control, nearly twice the number of premises treated during the previous fiscal year. This reflects the benefits of the National Urban Rat Control Program conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service from March to June 1948, in cooperation with the National Committee for Rat Control. An allotment of \$160,000 from the President's Emergency Food Conservation Program made this campaign possible.

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